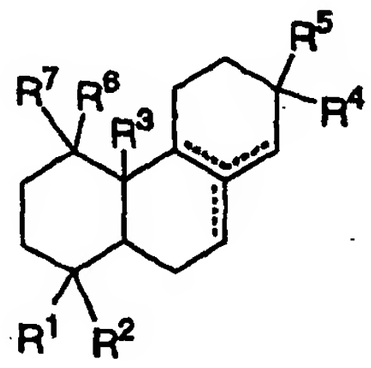
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

12. (New) A Method of opening potassium channels, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula [I]:

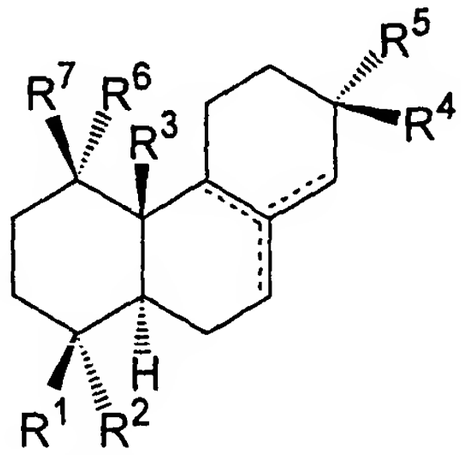


(I)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^4 and R^5 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R^6 and R^7 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; and all of three bonds represented by ---- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds,

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal including a human in need thereof.

13. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compound is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^2 is hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile;

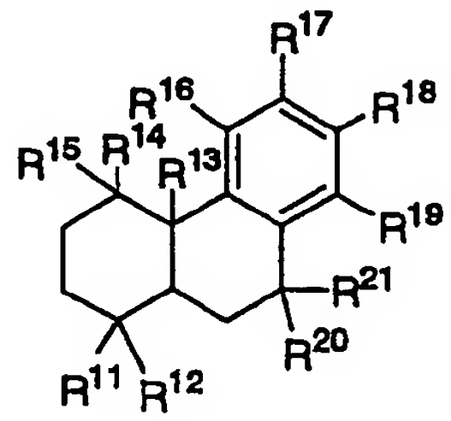
R^1, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^4 and R^5 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R^6 and R^7 may be bonded to each other to form a ring;
and all of three bonds represented by ---- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds.

14. (New) The method according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein R^1, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are alkyl or alkenyl, R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen and R^2 is carboxyl, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (New) The method according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein the compound is a substance selected from the group consisting of the following compounds: (1) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkenyl, R^5 is alkyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, (2) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkyl, R^5 is alkenyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and (3) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkyl, R^5 is alkyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compound is a substance selected from the group consisting of pimaric acid, dihydropimaric acid, dihydroisopimarinol, sandaracopimaric acid, isopimaric acid, and dihydroisopimaric acid, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (New) A method of opening potassium channels which comprises administering a compound represented by the following formula (II):

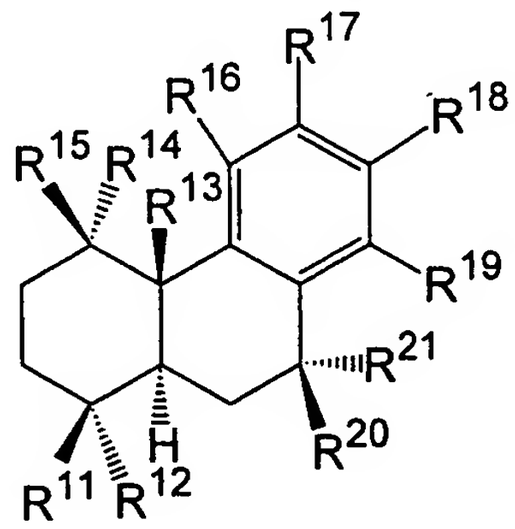


(II)

wherein R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^{20} and R^{21} may be bonded to each other to form oxo,

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal including a human in need thereof.

18. (New) The method according to Claim 17, wherein the compound is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^{12} is acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile;

R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy,

halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^{20} and R^{21} may be bonded to each other to form oxo.

19. (New) The method according to Claim17 or 18, wherein R^{11}, R^{13}, and R^{18} are alkyls, R^{12} is carboxyl, R^{14}, R^{15} and R^{16} are hydrogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (New). The method according to Claim 17 or 18, wherein R^{11}, R^{13} and R^{18} are alkyls, R^{12} is carboxyl, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{20}, and R^{21} are hydrogen, and R^{17} and R^{19} are halogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (New) The method according to Claim 12 or 17, wherein the potassium channels are calcium-activated potassium channels.

22. (New) The method according to Claim 12 or 17, which method is for prevention and/or treatment of essential hypertension, tonic bladder, airway hyperresponsiveness, or ischemic central nervous system disorder.